

Message Text

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11

ACTION NEA-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-05 EUR-06 IO-03 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-04 SPC-03

SS-20 RSC-01 PRS-01 PA-02 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

DRC-01 /065 W

----- 012983

P R 031050Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO USINFO WASHDC PRIORITY

SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 740

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

DIA WASHDC

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 9723

USIAC

USINFO FOR IOR/M, IPS, IBS, INE

BEIRUT FOR VOA AND RAPA

ROME FOR VOA

E O 11652: N/A

1. BEN GURION'S FUNERAL; OUTLINE OF LATE LEADER'S CHARACTER
AND ACHIEVEMENTS; AND TRIBUTE PAID BY ISRAEL AND INTERNATIONAL
COMMUNITY OVERSHADOW ALL OTHER NEWS ITEMS. PRESS REPORTS
THAT DELEGATES TO FUNERAL (US AND WEST GERMANY) WILL HOLD
POLITICAL TALKS WITH ISRAELI GOVERNMENT. EFFORTS TO BREAK
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DEADLOCK IN KILOMETER 101 TALKS REMAIN MAJOR ITEM. PRESS

HIGHLIGHTS DAYAN'S STATEMENT THAT ISRAEL WILL RESUME TALKS WHEN EGYPT IS READY. MAARIV (SGEV FORM WASHINGTON) SAY TENSION ALONG CEASEFIRE LINES WITH EGYPT MIGHT FORCE DAYAN TO SHORTEN HIS STAY IN US. HAARETZ (MARGALIT) BELIEVES DAYAN'S TALKS IN WASHINGTON ARE IMPORTANT FOR ISRELI PREPARATION FOR PEACE CONFERENCE. POLITICAL WRITERS CONTINUE TO HIGHLIGHT ISRAEL'S OPPOSITION TO PARTICIPATION OF PALESTINIANS AT PEACE CONFERENCE. PRIME MINISTER MEIR'S RADIO INTERVIEW (DECEMBER 1) IS WIDELY COVERED; EMPHASIS ON HER STATEMENTS THAH: (A) INTERNATIONAL GUARANTEES COULD COME IN ADDITION TO-- BUT NOT AS SUBSTITUTE FOR--SECURE BORDERS; AND (B) ISRAELI EGYPTIAN DISAGREEMENT ON TROOP DISENGAGEMENT SHOULD NOT BE COME OBSTACLE TO PEACE CONFERENCE. DAVAR (ZIDKONI) CLAIMS WEST BANK RESIDENTS MAINTAIN THAT PEACE WITH EGYPT IS NOT POSSIBLE BXORE ISRAELI-PALESTINAIN PEACE.

2. US-ISRAELI CONTACTS: (A) MAARIV (INDEPENDENTL) (DECEMBER 3)N REPORTS: " COMPREHENSIVE POLITICAL TALKS IN ANTICIPATION OF THE GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD WIHT UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE, KEENETH RUSH, WHO ARRIVED IN ISRAEL THIS MORNING TO HEAD THE US DELEGATION TO THE (BEN-GURION) FUNERAL." (B) MAARIV (HARIF) REMARKS: "...IN COURSE OF CONTACTS WITH ISRAELI REPRESENTATIVES, SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER CLARIFIED...HHAT IN HIS NEWS CONFERENCE IN PEKING... HE HAD NOT INTENDED TO PROPOSE 'GUARANTEES' TO ISRAEL AS SUBSTITUTE FOR SECURE BORDERS... AND THAT HE HAD NOT HINTED ABOUT EXTENT OF ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL...REGARDING ADDIOTIONAL INVITATIONS TO PEACE CONFERENCE, IT HAS BEEN AGREED BETWEEN ISRAEL AND US THAT...HHIS WILL BE DONE ONLY WITH CONSENT OF ALL PARTICIPANTS...IT IS POSSIBLE THAT LEBANON WILL BE INVITED BEFORE OFFICIAL OPENING...ISRAEL IS ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN THIS TO SHOW...HHAT PEACE CONFERENCE IS NOT A CONFERENCE MEANT TO DISCUSS WITHDRAWAL MATTERS ONLY..." (C) NOTING IMPORTANCE OF DAYAN-KISSINGER TALKS (DECEMBER 7), HAARETZ (INDEPENDENT) (MARGALIT) REMARKS: "...SOVIET INVOLVEMENT (IN THE MIDDLE EAST) HAS REACHED ITS PEAK...HHERE IS THEREFORE SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE TO QUESTION AS TO WHAT US IS PREPARED TO DO IN ORDER TO CURB SOVIETS...WASHINGTON REALIZES THAT IHS ABILITY TO SEEK INFLUENCE IN CAIRO IS NOT ABSOLUTE..AND THAT IT CANNOT CAUSE TOTAL EXPULSION OF THE SOVIETS FROM EGYPT.N UNCLASSIFIED

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GUARANTEE (HO ISRAEL) HAS THEREFORE BECOME A CLEAR (US) INTEREST..."

3. KILOMETER 101 TALKS: (A) IN RADIO INTERVIEW (DEC1) PRIME MINISTER MEIR NOTED BENEFIT IN HAVING PERSONAL CONTACTS BETWEEN EGYPTIAN AND ISRAELI OFFICERS AT KILOMETER 101. MEIR ADDED:N " ARAB PREPAREDNESS TO GEGOTIATE WITH US POINTS TO A SUBSTANTIAL CHANGE IN LONG STANDING ARAB POSITION, WHICH HAD RULED OUT ANY

CONTACT WITH, AND RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL...HHE BREAKDOWN OF (KM 101) TALKS DOES NOT HAVE TO BE A REASON FOR NOT GOING TO THE GENEVA CONFERENCE..."

(B) PRESS REPORTS DAYAN'S REMARKS FOLLOWING MEETING WITH GENERAL SIILASVUO IN ATTEMPT TO RESUME EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI TALKS AT KM 101. DAYAN NOTED THAT ISRAEL WOULD BE WILLING TO RESUME TALKS WHEN EGYPT IS READY. ISRAEL, DAYAN CONTINUED, WOULD LISTEN TO NEW EGYPTIAN PROPOSALS AND WOULD DO ITS BEST TO MOVE TOWARD A COMPROMISE OF DIENGAGEMENT OF FORCES. THE BALL, DAYAN NOTED, WAS IN EGYPT'S HAND AND SHOULD TALKS RESUME, YARIV WILL RECEIVE INSTRUCTIONS FROM GOVERNMENT.

4. CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS: PRESS AND RADIO HIGHLIGHT INTENSIFIED CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS (EGYPTIAN AND SYRIAN FRONTS) NOTING THAT IDF IS STILL MAINTAINING ALERT TO ANTICIPATE ANY ARAB ATTEMPT TO RESUME SHOOTING.

5. ISRAELI POLICY: (A) HAARETZ (AHRONSON) DISAGREES WITH PRESS PUBLICATIONS SUGGESTING PRE-WAR ISRAELI IMMOBILITY CAUSED ARABS TO ATTACK ISRAEL. AHRONSON ARGUES:"...IN 1970 A FUNDAMENTAL CHAGE OCCURRED IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AS RESULT OF INCREASED SOVIET MILITARY AND NAVAL POWER...MILITARY AND POLITICAL BALANCE OF FORCES CHANGED INFAVOR OF THE KREMLIN... ISRAELI PRE-WAR POLICY ONLY MADE IT EASIER FOR SOVIETS TO IMPLEMENT THEIR PLANS..." AHRONSON BELIEVES THAT OUSTER OF GOLDA-DAYAN-GALILI WOULD NOT SOLVE ISRAEL'S POLITICAL PROBLEMS. AHRONSON NOTES: " KISSINGER'S ONLY WAY OUT--MEDIATION BETWEEN CAIRO AND JERUSALEM AT ISRAEL'S EXPENSE--(HHROUGH CONFLICT DE-ESCALATION, GIVE AND TAKE RELATIONSHIP IN THE FIELD, A CERTAIN ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL, CANAL OPENING, AND FURTHER ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL TOGETHER WITH DEMILITARIZATION AND GUARANTEES)...HAS BEEN REJECTED BY EGYTP...KISSINGER'S ACTIVITIES REQUIRE TIME...HOWEVER, WASHINGTON IS RUNNING SHORT OF TIME BECAUSE OF ENERGY CRISIS... UNCLASSIFIED

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ISRAELI POLITICAL PARTIES' DEMANDS TO MAKE CONCESSIONS DO NOT FIT (IN THE GLOBAL PICTURE)..."

(B) HAARETZ (LITANI) ACKNOWLEDGES STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF GOLAN HEIGHTS FROM ISRAEL'S SECURITY BUT CRITICIZES RECENT DEMANDS TO DOUBLE SETTLEMENT IN GOLAN HEIGHTS URGING GOI TO WAIT FOR POSSIBLE PEACE TALKS WITH SYRIA TO SETTLE CMNFLICT.

6. FUTURE OF WEST BANK: WRITING FOR HAARETZ, PROFESSOR SHAPIRA SUGGESTS: " DECISION ON FUTURE OF WEST BANK SHOULD BE LEFT TO ARABS AFTER (ISRAEL) HANDS OVER THE CIVILIAN ADMINISTRATION ON THE WEST BANK TO JORDAN. ISRAEL SHOULD NOT BEOCME A PARTY TO THE DECISION. I ALSO SUGGEST THAT GAZA TOO BE PLACE UNDER JORDANIAN SUPERVISION." MOSS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: STATE FUNERALS, REPRESENTATION AT CEREMONIES, POLITICAL LEADERS, PEACE TALKS, PEACE PLANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973TELAV09723
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731248/aaaabjfp.tel
Line Count: 168
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02-Oct-2001 by williad>; APPROVED <07 FEB 2002 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: n/a
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, IS, (BEN-GURION, DAVID)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005